



THE ELECTION Connection

KING COUNTY ELECTIONS | JANUARY 2014

Sherril Huff,
Director of Elections

Looking forward to the year ahead

The February 11 Special Election promises to be one of the biggest special elections since 2010. We mail ballots to more than 630,000 voters on January 22, representing about half the voting population of King County.

Featured on ballots will be measures for 16 school districts, the city of Issaquah and the Klahanie Annexation Area.

Voted ballots must be postmarked on or before Feb. 11 or returned to a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Feb. 11.

The overall turnout forecast for King County is 38 percent. We certify the February election on Feb. 25.

We will hire many temporary workers for the upcoming primary and general elections, so watch the web site for job postings if you're interested in joining us!

April Special Election

Jurisdictions have until March 7 to file a measure for the April 22 Special Election. Ballots will be mailed April 2. Certification will take place May 6.

Candidate filing

Right on the heels of the April Special Election, candidates may begin filing for the primary and general elections. Candidate filing week is May 12, with most candidates filing online.

Thinking about running for office? Our website has candidate information that will help you get started.

August Primary Election

While you're making your summer plans, remember that primary election day is Aug. 5. We mail ballots July 16 to all eligible county voters, so keep an eye on your mailbox or arrange in advance to have your ballot mailed to you elsewhere if you'll be away during the election. The top two primary election determines which candidates will appear on the November ballot.

November General Election

The General Election begins Oct. 16 and finishes on election day, Nov. 4. The ballot will include candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislature and statewide ballot measures.



Processing mail during the last February Special Election.



A temporary worker scans ballots during 2013's general election.

Rat City Rollergirls join Elections voter campaign



With the help of a diverse cadre of local celebrities, King County Elections shares voting tips with the public through an eye-catching education campaign. In 2013, Rat City Rollergirls and news anchors Connie Thompson, Mark Wright and Joyce Taylor donated their time and celebrity status by joining the campaign. Ads featuring these and other celebrities emphasized the importance of returning ballots early and other tips.

Who will join the Elections' team in 2014? Keep your eyes open.

Take a virtual tour of King County Elections

See first-hand how we keep your vote secure

Ever wondered what happens to your ballot after you vote and mail it or return it to a drop box? Now you can see all the steps that keep your vote secure and move it along until it is counted. From the comfort of your home, take a look at Elections' new video tour: Every Vote Counts.

The nine-minute video features a family taking a tour of our headquarters in Renton. They learn more about signature verification (we verify each and every signature on ballot return envelopes!), ballot opening, and more. Elections employees tell all about the steps to process a ballot.

The process has a number of steps to keep your vote private. For example, once your signature has been verified, the return envelope (the one you sign) is separated from the security envelope before the ballot is removed. This severs the connection between voters' identity and their ballots.

On the video, you'll hear about other security measures such as working in teams, surveillance cameras, security alarms and color-coded lanyards to identify visitors, observers, employees and vendors. Ballots are never left alone with a single employee; each step of the process requires teams of two. Live web cams as well as security cameras are placed throughout the ballot processing area. All doors at Elections require a security card for access; some highly secure areas also require fingerprint access. Employees and visitors alike are required to wear badges with color-coded lanyards during each election.

That way it's easy to spot visitors, media and others.

We invite you to check out the video. If it peaks your interest, come for an in-person visit during election season! If you have a group that's interested in a guided tour, call Diana Sutherland at 206-296-1540.

2014

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 11

Special Election

April 22

Special Election

Aug. 5

Primary Election

Nov. 4

General Election

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